

[Transcription begins]

#35 [crossed out] Monday May 8, 1944

#36 (found my slip after I signed this letter)

Dear Douglas--Somehow I have lost the slip of paper on which I record the number of the letters I write you--I think this is the #35 so have numbered it accordingly. Generally I have written you during the day but now it is evening--"Information Please" is on the radio, Dad is at a committee meeting at Everett Young's--Marilyn & Bill have gone to the movies (he got in just before supper) and Daryl is sound asleep (I imagine at the foot of her crib!)

Bill expects to be moved by the 1st of June but up to now has no idea where. This new ship for which he has orders is on the way from New York & he hopes to have a little time on it before being sent elsewhere. (Bing has just rattled the letter box at the front door & on being let in has received a royal welcome from Chip.[]) He has his belled collar on & so far has not been seen with a bird this season! Daryl recognizes the bell & calls "Bee-e bee-e."

We have received your #102 & #103 dated April 20 & 28th and your thoughtful birthday card to Marilyn. You mention a head cold & I am sorry to hear of it--hope you do not have many of them. You say that you are forever talking about "the states & prospects for leaves" we too indulge in that speculation very often but I have steeled myself to believe that you will not be back for two years--[)]¹/₄ of it has already gone) and if you do get home sooner it will just be a happy, happy surprise! (Bing is now stretched out at the top of this letter purring his head off) I know how you must long at times to be home just as we long to see you, but when the time comes when you look back on this period, it will have passed quickly (radio is now playing selections from "Rose Marie") Went to see "Desert Song" this week--a good movie but not to be compared to the original as I recall it.

So glad to know you had another Service on board and that you had a chance to sing--who governs these things? I mean who decides to have them? Keep all the snap shots as we have duplicates here. We would send you many more but film is difficult to get. We have one now that we are gradually taking & hope we have some good results.

I surely would like the chance to make you an Indian pudding & when you come home the milkman will have a standing order for a gallon of milk a day for the first two weeks!

It usually doesn't pay to mention unpleasant situations such as sickness or similar things for before you receive the letter, things can change so rapidly. In my last letter I suggested that Tommy was rather unhappy but now that has changed--his former captain, Ex. Officer & his roommates were at Bermuda--J. white [sic]--and says that you have met him and he is most happy again and says he will not mention his former unhappiness again until he tells all after the war! Timmie has reached the Coast & finds that he can live at his Aunt Louise Clapp's home (Stafford & Hope's sister--she used to live on Bartlett Avenue when her children were small so Dad & I know them quite well) You

must get that address & look him up when you come back.

Do you remember George Turner--he is definitely out of the service but looks as rugged as ever but he has a silver plate in his skull and received a crack on the skull which endangered that week [sic] spot--he was in the hospital for three months & the Navy considers him too great a risk. He says that he feels very conspicuous in civilian clothes.

Did I happen to mention that one of Daryl's favorite toys is your set of fire red ear muffs? She looks so cunning trotting all over the house, she has a rolling walk as she tries to keep her balance and she is so short & stubby. Most of the day she is out in her play pen.

Dad and I went to Communion Service Sunday--a full church & choir loft--Leland was up there this time. Saturday night we had supper at Aunt Eleanor's--Uncle Hartley Harvey & Aunt Marion were also there and Grandma also.

Barbara Hard has just announced her engagement to Lt. John Perkey--Asst Flight Instructor at Hillsgrove--veteran of 15 months flying across--crashed 5 times and everyone seems to think he is a very fine young man. They will be married some time in June. Roger Brown hopes to be married May 28th, if his plans for a leave do not go awry and Eleanor Paulson is to be married at Calvary May 20th.

We are trying to get together a birthday package but can find so little that you can use. Do let us know if there is anything that you want or would enjoy or that the other fellows receive. I do hope you get the harmonica we sent.

I am enjoying being home--sewing, cooking, washing, etc. keep me busy & very happy. I have been doing a lot upstairs lately and have enjoyed being in your room with its posters of Gilbert & Sullivan, Brown bears and Cranston C's. The storages are pretty well straightened out and it's just as well for some days it gets pretty warm up there.

Do I mention people in whom you are interested? And is there any other news you would like to hear? We think of you and talk of you often--Daryl knows Uncle Doug's picture. Keep happy & your courage and faith and hope.

Every so much love, dear boy

Mother [Transcription ended]